



Workforce Development Council

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE (SDPC) MEETING

1313 Sherman St #521
Denver, CO

June 7, 2005
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Summary

In Attendance:

Members:

Alex Hall, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar (proxy for Nancy McCallin), Tom Kilijanek, Gary Bien, Mark Warne, Kimberly Tulp (via conference call), Nancy Smith, Mary Beth Susman

Council Staff:

Booker Graves, Steve Wright, Glenn Little

Absent:

Brent Ness, Cameron Horan, Dan Pilcher, Elise Lowe-Vaughn, Jim Rowell, Kersten Hostetter, Ledy Garcia-Eckstein, Dr. Roger Smith, Steven Brown

Meeting:

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Roger is on vacation, so Booker is acting as his proxy. Nancy McCallin is unavailable to attend, so Samantha is attending today's meeting as her proxy
- II. LMI – Alex Hall
Mark Pingrey, Booker, and Alex Hall have been collaborating on a plan for WIA which would include several opportunities for expansion of LMI work. Booker wants to take a recommendation to the SWIS Committee on assisting LMI with a projection project.

The Workforce Information Grant through USDOL requires two activities, which are to populate the LMI central database with information from the Department of Revenue, Department of Education, LMI, etc., and to make basic-level projections. Other funding opportunities include website support and local employment dynamics.

Regarding funding for projections, one has to look into what it costs to fund a quarterly reporting outlook for each region, specifically for skills projections. You can create a forecast for industry levels; occupation staffing patterns are a requirement by contract thru BLS. There are eight geographic areas from which to create skills projections.

LMI could produce eight projections on a quarterly basis, but the process would take at least six weeks of gathering all of the necessary information, with a great deal of staff time being involved. It would cost \$580,000 to run a quarterly reporting program. The data produced would be volumes of information and difficult to incorporate into local business plans. An alternate plan is to create a long-term outlook for the different areas and a short-term outlook on an annual basis. It would cost \$383,000 to run this alternate program and LMI can provide \$350,000.

How often do workforce centers access the projection information currently? How do they use the information that's already out there? Centers do use the LMI pamphlets on a regular basis; a great deal of analytical information is needed to create all of the LMI products.

The cost of producing the LMI data on a quarterly basis is too high to justify the frequency of production. The cost of producing the information every six months is \$91,000. The Council would be willing to pay \$45,000 if the workforce regions are willing to contribute \$45,000. this plan would cost the 9 regions \$5,000 each.

Mark and Booker recommend the alternate plan for short and long-term projections, with the development of a plan for those regions that want the information more frequently (it could be an incremental cost that regions would have to pay for.

Additionally

They propose to create an publication support fund of \$45,000 of CWDC funds. This fund would pay part of the cost of production of information in table formats and for production of the pamphlets that have been produced in the past by LMI for individual regions.

This pot of money could be set aside to assist regions that wanted to have some LMI pamphlets and would require a local match to access the funds.

The frequency issue could be revisited next year if there are workforce centers that desire the projections more often.

A motion to forward a recommendation to the SWIS Committee to approve support of the LMI annual plan was seconded and approved.

A motion to recommend approval of the plan for a long term skills projection report and one additional regional report for each region to the SWIS committee was made and approved.

A motion to recommend to the SWIS Committee that LMI staff consider providing the user-friendly products and that the CWDC should set aside funds to assist regions in producing these items (a list of what information they want included and what the CWDC would pay for should be reviewed) at their request was seconded and approved.

JVS Update – funding for the Job Vacancy Survey has decreased over the past couple of years with CDLE making up the difference. They will no longer be covering the reduction in funding, so there has been a 44% reduction this year. The impact this will have is as follows: the surveys will be reduced from 19 to 11, meaning that some areas will only be surveyed once instead of twice; more time will be involved in producing the JVS; four questions will be removed from the surveys. One question that is being considered for elimination is related to having someone from the workforce center contact them. This is a valuable marketing opportunity and there may be another question that could be removed. Alex will make recommendations on other questions that could be dropped and speak to Mark and Booker. As a form of Quality Control, the contact responses should be sent to Aron and the Marketing Team so that they will ensure that follow-up occurs.

There has been considerable discussion on the value of the JVS in the SWIS Committee. They had been funding the project at a rate of \$500,000 each year, but they were really questioning the ROI on the information that was being gathered. They decided to reduce funding and have LMI reshuffle and reorganize. Some of the JVS information can be gathered via other avenues within LMI. The workforce boards should provide feedback on what they really need that Alex can provide.

LED Program – entered into mapping application last fall. It provides a breakdown by region of where people are located, where they commute from, where the jobs are (specific to industry). It should be available on the internet by the middle of June. The information can be accessed from the LMI webpage. Colorado is one of 11 states that is involved in the project. It is a marriage of census data, social security administration data, IRS data, and LMI data. LMI is looking to partner with Demography on the project.

III. Director's Report – Booker

Strategic Planning Recap – the first meeting was Feb 1st where Council partners presented their plans and how the CWDC can help and incorporate their strategies into their own plan.

On May 23rd, the Executive Committee reviewed the strategic planning issues, where we've been, and where we're going. Council initiatives were discussed. The Economic Development Council is focused on energy and renewable energy projects. Economic Development has five areas of focus: space, health, renewable energy, biosciences, and aviation. Three strategies were developed for the Council to focus on in the coming years:

- Align an employer-driven workforce development system with economic development.
- Identify career development pathways in emerging industries.
- Invest in regional and local solutions to meet marketplace needs.

The system should focus on demand and invest in workforce boards that are really focused on skills development and enhancement. Each sub-committee will be involved in the strategic goals of the Council.

There are discussions taking place in each sub-committee meeting on how the committees operate under the three strategies. The system should always remain locally driven and follow what the workforce boards identify as their needs (local regions have different industries that drive their economic system).

WorkKeys is an example of local collaboration on work readiness certification. There are 16 states currently involved in the project. A report from R&D Resource Development (Susan Blansett) on what is being done on a national level should be ready by the end of June. If the current trend continues, there will need to be one uniform system in the state (there shouldn't be different certificates all over the state). What's the business buy-in of the program? From the evidence being collected, there definitely seems to be a need for this certification.

There was a discussion on the format of the Council meetings. There will be a change in the way that Committees report to the Council. Reports will be sent out in advance of meetings then approved at the meeting. With this format, more discussion can occur regarding policies and procedures in the system, and how the Council can move forward. At the next Council meeting, each sub-committee will present questions to facilitate a discussion on each of the strategic areas of focus.

State Plan – The Two Year State Plan recapped what the Council's been doing and how projects will be expanded. The Plan was filed early and

is posted on OWD's website for review. There is a great deal of LMI information included in the Plan. The deadline for comments on the Plan is the end of June. This is the interim plan that will be in place until WIA is reauthorized or another initiative is approved.

Need to line up volunteers to review the new grant proposals that will be coming in. Tom Kilijanek (if in town), Mary Beth Susman (if in town), Mark Warne, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar, Alex Hall (depending on the date), Nancy Smith volunteered for the committee. The review meeting will be scheduled for sometime in August.

Healthcare Grant – The Department of Labor needs to release the funds to get the project moving forward.

e-Colorado Portal – The Portal is up and running. Portal trainings are occurring now.

Think Big Forum – A conference for youth coordinators was held a couple of weeks ago and it aimed at getting them to think beyond their own resources to help youth.

Jobs for America's Graduates – Booker will meet with the Co-Chairs of State Youth Council to see about partnering with them. The Governor believes it to be a good and beneficial program.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.